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OUR REF: MRH.PO4898GB  
DATE: 10th February 2004  
BY DHL

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Application for Demande de Anmeldung für	A PATENT	Country Pays Land	U.S.A.	Due date-Terme-Frist: 7th June 2004
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Title  
Titre  
Titel

A WARNING SIGN

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Priority Priorité Priorität	Country-Pays-Land	Number-Numero-Nummer	Date-Date-Datum
GB	GB	0313157.0	7th June 2003
Home applicant Demandeur d'origine Heimatanmelder	GB	0325102.2	28th October 2003

Documents  
Documents  
Unterlagen

Documents sent  
Pièces jointes  
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Documents to follow  
Pièces à suivre  
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Power-Pouvoir-Vollmacht.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Specification-Description-Beschreibung.....	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Informal drawings-Dessins provisoires-Provisorische Zeichnung .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Formal drawings-Dessins formels-Vorschriftsgerechte Zeichnung .....	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Application No: GB 0313157.0  
Claims searched: 1-8

Examiner: Michael Prior  
Date of search: 3 November 2003

## Patents Act 1977 : Search Report under Section 17

### Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance	
X, Y	X: 1, 2, 3 Y: 4	GB 2143068 A	(RUBBERMAID) whole document relevant.
Y	4	GB 2354625 A	(SCOT YOUNG) whole document relevant.
Y	4	US 6131320	(AMERICAN ALLSAFE) whole document relevant.
A	1, 3	US 4253260	(RUBBER MAID) column 2 lines 33-54

### Categories:

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

### Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC<sup>v</sup>:

G5C

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC<sup>7</sup>:

G09F, E01F

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report:

Online: EPODOC, WPI, JAPIO, TXTE

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# (12) UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 354 625 (13) A

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(51) INT CL<sup>7</sup>

G09F 15/00

(52) UK CL (Edition S )

G5C CER

(56) Documents Cited

GB 2249573 A GB 2143068 A WO 93/14484 A1  
US 5095642 A US 4999937 A US 4796369 A  
US 4624210 A

(58) Field of Search

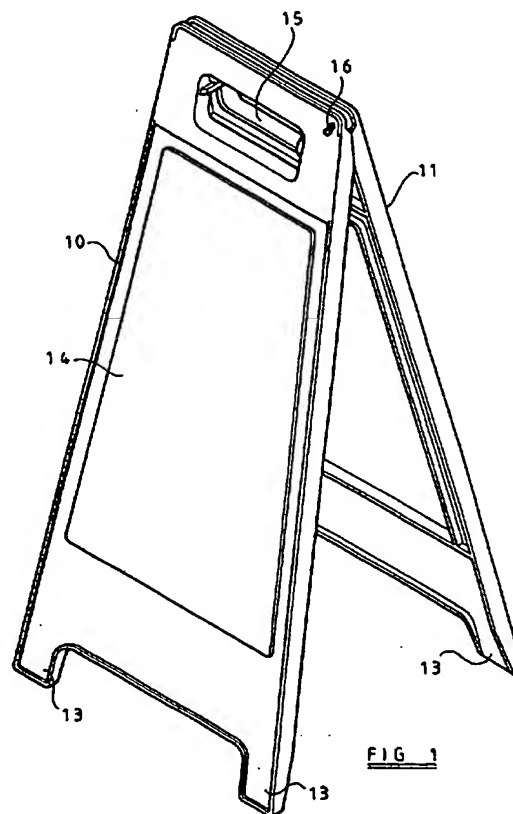
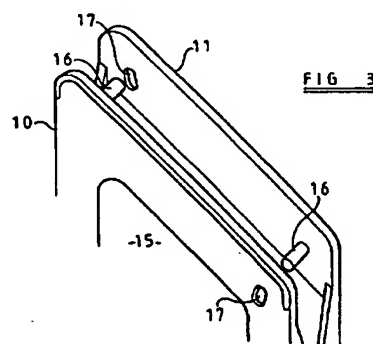
UK CL (Edition R ) G5C CEQ CER CFA  
INT CL<sup>7</sup> G09F 15/00  
Online: EPODOC, WPI, Japio

(54) Abstract Title

**Warning sign**

(57) The sign comprises two pans 10, 11 pivotably connected together at their upper ends and having ground contacting foot portions 13 at their lower ends. The two parts are pivotable between a first storage position in which the parts are in side-by-side relationship and a second position in which the parts are at an angle to one another so that, with the foot portions of one part spaced from the foot portions of the other part, the sign will be self-supporting on the ground. Detent means 16, 17 are provided for releasably retaining the two parts in the second position.

Also claimed is a sign with a third pop-up part and means for releasably supporting the pop-up part in a raised position.



GB 2 354 625 A

1 / 3

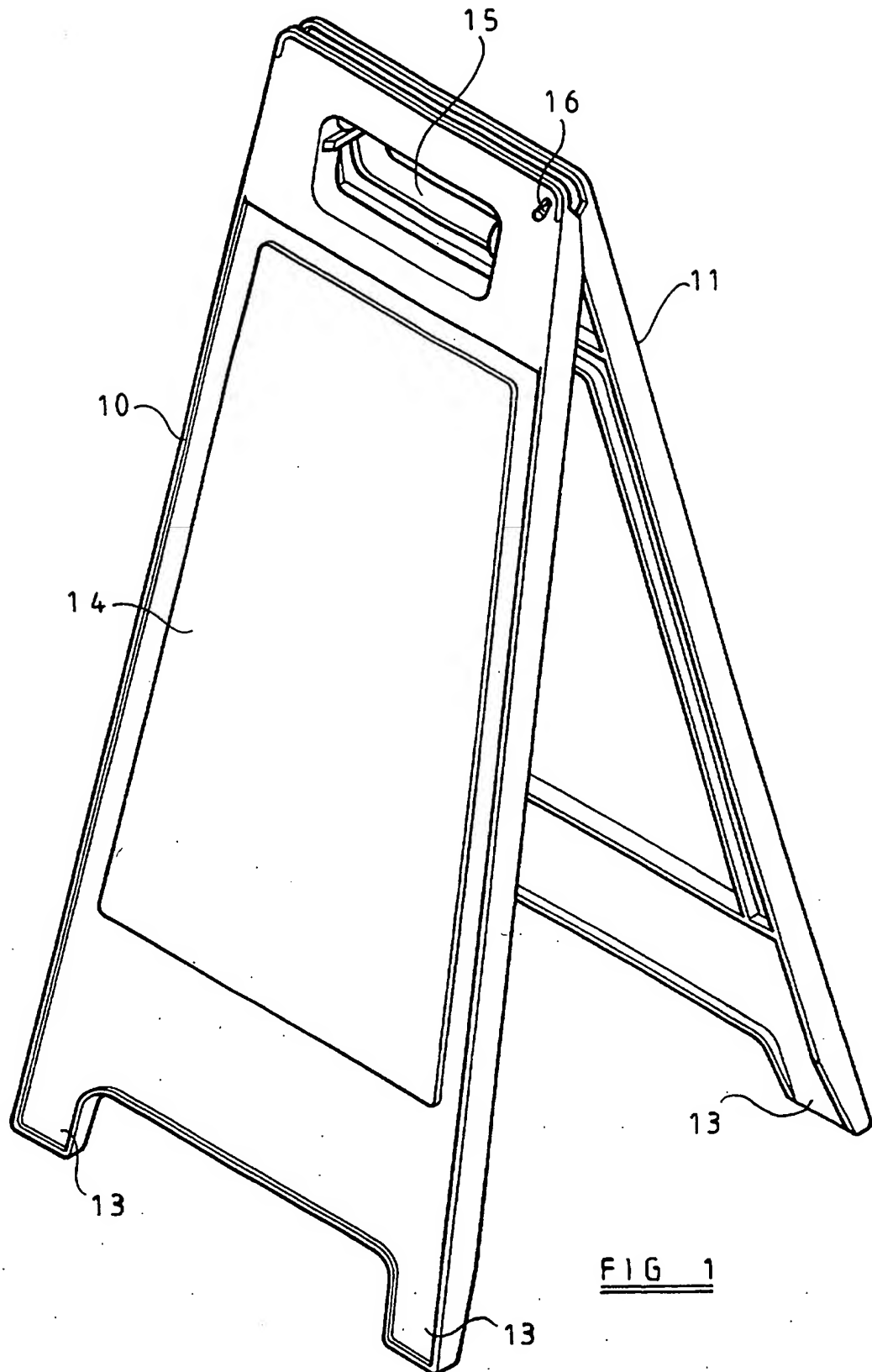


FIG 1

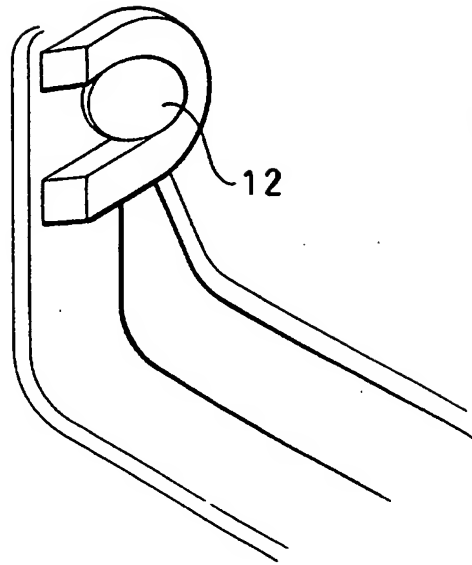


FIG 2

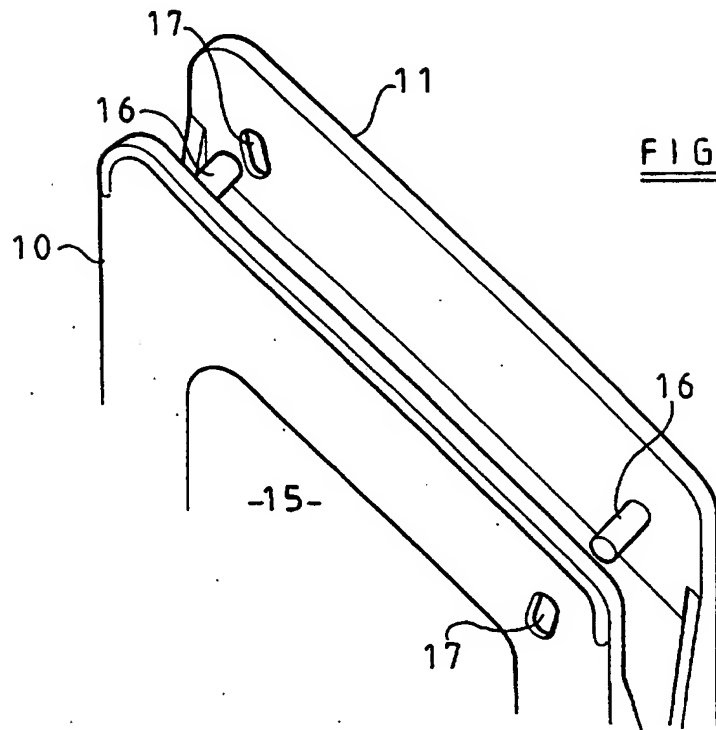
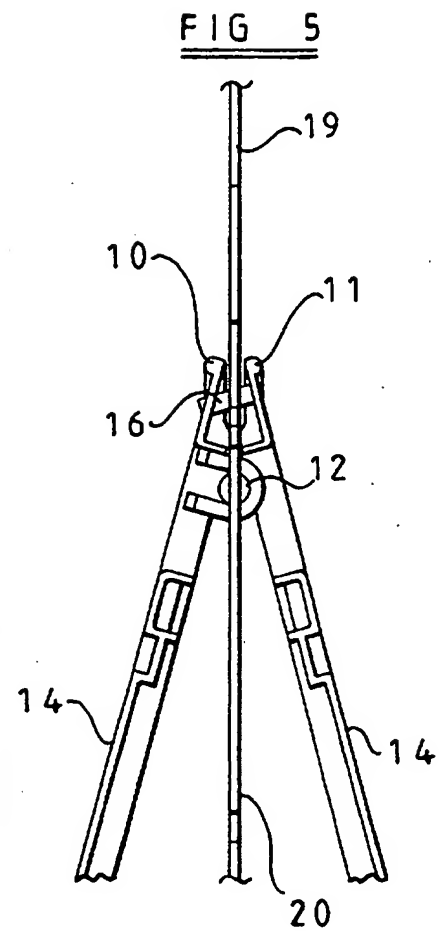
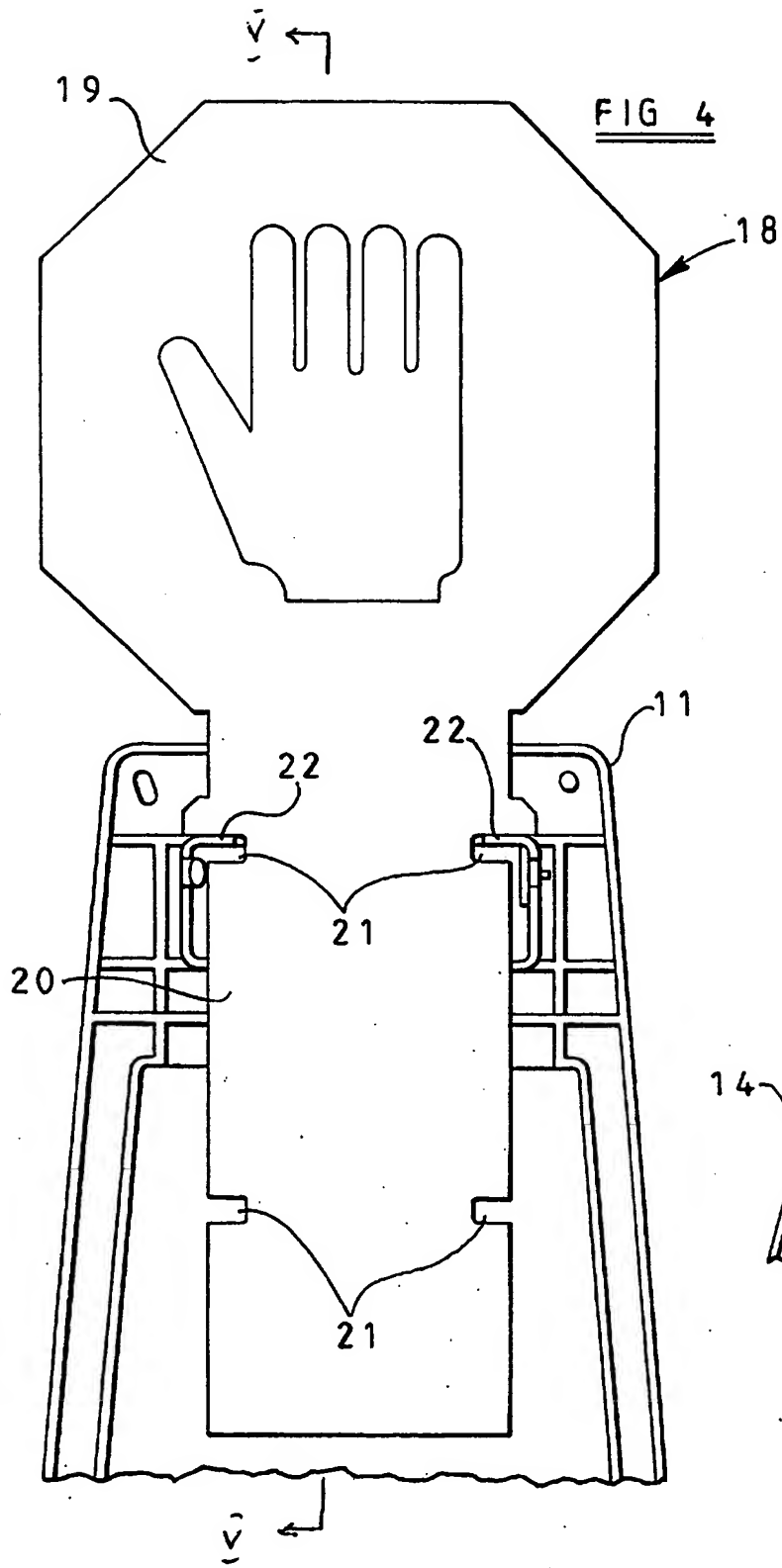


FIG 3



A WARNING SIGN

This invention relates to a warning sign particularly but not exclusively for  
5 use on wet floors in public places.

According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a  
warning sign comprising two parts pivotably connected together at their in use upper  
ends and having ground contacting foot portions at their in use lower ends, the two  
10 parts being pivotable between a first storage position in which the two parts are  
arranged in side-by-side relationship and a second operative position in which the two  
parts are at an angle to one another so that with the foot portion or portions of one  
part spaced from the foot portion or portions of the other part, the sign will be self-  
supporting on the ground, and detent means for releasably retaining the two parts in  
15 the second operative position.

Preferred and/or optional features of the first aspect of the invention are set  
forth in Claims 2 to 7 inclusive.

20 According to a second aspect of the invention there is provided a warning  
sign comprising two parts pivotably connected together at their in use upper ends and  
having ground contacting foot portions at their in use lower ends, the two parts being  
pivotable between a first storage position in which the two parts are arranged in side-  
by-side relationship and a second operative position in which the two parts are at an

angle to one another with the foot portion or portions of one part spaced from the foot portion or portions of the other part so that the sign will be self-supporting on the ground, a third part which can be raised or lowered relative to the first and second parts and means for releasably supporting the third part in a raised position relative to the first and second parts when the first and second parts are in said second position.

Preferred and/or optional features of the second aspect of the invention are set forth in Claims 9 to 11.

10

The invention will now be more particularly described by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing one embodiment of a warning sign according to the first aspect of the invention, in an operative position,

15

Figure 2 is a fragmentary perspective view showing a hinge between first and second parts of the warning sign shown in Figure 1,

20

Figure 3 is a fragmentary perspective view showing the upper part of the first and second parts of the warning sign in a storage position,

Figure 4 is a vertical section taken between the first and second parts of the warning sign but including also a third part which can be raised or lowered relative



to the first and second parts, and

Figure 5 is a section taken along line V - V of Figure 4.

5           Referring to the drawings, there is shown therein a warning sign which, for  
example, can be used to caution the general public in a public place that a potential  
hazard exists in the vicinity of the sign, such as a wet floor or maintenance work in  
a restaurant, hospital, train station and such like. The warning sign comprises first  
and second parts 10 and 11 pivotably connected together by hinges 12 at the in use  
10 upper ends of the two parts 10 and 11 for movement between a first storage position  
in which the two parts lie parallel in a side-by-side relationship (see Figure 3) and a  
second operative position in which the two parts are at an angle to one another (see  
Figure 1). Each part 10, 11 has feet 13 at its in use lower end so that when the parts  
10 and 11 are in the second operative position, the feet will support the sign in an  
15 upright position as shown in Figure 1.

Each part 10 and 11 has a recess 14, for receiving a caution sign, and a  
hand hole 15.

20           As best seen in Figure 3, each part 10, 11 has a projection 16 at the upper  
end of its inner face above the hinges 12 that securely releasably engages an aperture  
or recess 17 in the other part 11, 10 when the two parts 10 and 11 are in the second  
operative position. The projections 16 are a snap or friction fit in corresponding  
apertures or recesses 17 to allow the two parts to retain the second operative position,

thereby reducing a tendency for the sign to collapse and/or fall over when impacted.

As shown in Figures 4 and 5, the sign also comprises a third "pop-up" part 18. This third part 18 comprises a head portion 19 having the caution sign on each of its two major faces and a stem portion 20 which, when the first and second parts 10 and 11 are in the first storage position, is slidable therebetween allowing the third part 18 to be adjusted between a lowered position in which the head portion 19 is just above the upper ends of the first and second parts 10 and 11, and a second raised position.

10

The stem portion 20 has two pairs of recesses 21. The recesses of each pair are horizontally aligned when the sign is in an upright position and the two pairs of recesses 21 are spaced vertically from one another. When the warning sign is in the second operative position, these recesses 21 receive projections 22 formed on each of the first and second parts 10 and 11. This allows the third part 18 to be securely supported in the raised (or lowered) position. The third part 18 can only be released from its raised (or lowered) position relative to the first and second parts 10 and 11 by moving the first and second parts from the second operative position, thus releasing the projections 22 from the recesses 21:

20

Typically, all parts are formed of plastics material with the third part 18 preferably being resiliently flexible in a direction parallel to the ground on which the warning sign is erected. Due to this flexibility and the secure support of the third part 18 at the recesses 21 when in the operative position, stability of the warning sign

is increased due to the realisation of a "pendulum" effect that allows reversal of momentum on impact of the third part 18, i.e. when a person accidentally knocks the caution sign with a shoulder bag, for example, thus resulting in little or no relative movement of the warning sign subsequent to impact.

CLAIMS

1. A warning sign comprising two parts pivotably connected together at their  
5 in use upper ends and having ground contacting foot portions at their in use lower  
ends, said two parts being pivotable between a first storage position in which said two  
parts are arranged in side-by-side relationship and a second operative position in  
which said two parts are at an angle to one another so that, with said foot portion or  
portions of one part spaced from said foot portion or portions of the other part, the  
10 sign will be self-supporting on the ground, and detent means for releasably retaining  
the said two parts in said second position.

2. A warning sign as claimed in Claim 1, where said detent means comprises  
at least one projection and at least one corresponding aperture or recess, said  
15 projection being arranged to fit in said aperture or recess as a snap or friction fit  
when said two parts are in said second position.

3. A warning sign as claimed in Claim 2, wherein each part has one said  
projection which cooperates with one said corresponding aperture or recess formed  
20 in the other part.

4. A warning sign as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, further  
comprising a third part slidably adjustable relative to said first and second parts and  
means for releasably supporting said third part in a raised position relative to said

first and second parts when said first and second parts are in said second position.

5. A warning sign as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said third part is only releasable from its said raised position by moving said first and second parts from  
5 said second position.

6. A warning sign as claimed in Claim 4 or 5, wherein said releasable support means comprises first and second detent means, said third part being releasably supported in a raised position by said first detent means and being releasably  
10 supported in a lowered position by said second detent means.

7. A warning sign as claimed in Claim 6, wherein said first and second detent means comprise at least one slot (or projection) formed in or on said third part and a corresponding projection (or slot) formed on or in at least one of said first and  
15 second parts.

8. A warning sign comprising two parts pivotably connected together at their in use upper ends and having ground contacting foot portions at their in use lower ends, said two parts being pivotable between a first storage position in which said two  
20 parts are arranged in side-by-side relationship and a second operative position in which said two parts are at an angle to one another with said foot portion or portions of one part spaced from said foot portion or portions of the other part so that said sign is self-supportable on the ground, a third part which is slidably adjustable relative to said first and second parts, and means for releasably supporting said third

part in a raised position relative to said first and second parts when said first and second parts are in said second position.

9. A warning sign as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said third part is only  
5 releasable from said raised position by moving said first and second parts from said second position.

10. A warning sign as claimed in Claim 8 or 9, wherein said releasable support  
means comprises first and second detent means, said third part being releasably  
10 supported in a raised position by said first detent means and being releasably supported in a lowered position by said second detent means.

11. A warning sign as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said first and second  
detent means comprise at least one slot (or projection) formed in or on said third part  
15 and a corresponding projection (or slot) formed on or in at least one of said first and second parts.

12. A warning sign as claimed in any one of claims 4 to 11, wherein said third  
part is resiliently flexible.

20

13. A warning sign substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the  
accompanying drawings.



Application No: GB 9922189.7  
Claims searched: 8 - 11 & 12

Examiner: Michael R. Wendt  
Date of search: 21 June 2000

## Patents Act 1977 Further Search Report under Section 17

### Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK CI (Ed.R): G5C (CEQ, CER, CFA)

Int CI (Ed.7): G09F 15/00

Other: Online: EPODOC, WPI, Japio

### Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
X	GB 2249573 A (MORELOCK) e.g. see Figures 1, 2 & 4; page 5 lines 17 etc.	8
A	GB 2143068 A (RUBBERMAID) (& US4796369) e.g. see Figures 1 & 9; Abstract.	8
A	US 5095642 (STOUT IND'S) e.g. see Figures 1 & 9; Column 2 lines 49 etc.	8

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step  
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.

& Member of the same patent family

A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.  
P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.  
E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.



Application No: GB 9922189.7 Examiner: Michael R. Wendt  
Claims searched: 1 - 7 & 12 (when appended Date of search: 31 January 2000  
to Claims 4 - 7)

**Patents Act 1977**  
**Search Report under Section 17**

**Databases searched:**

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Int Cl (Ed.7): G09F 15/00

Other: Online: EPODOC, WPI, Japio

**Documents considered to be relevant:**

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
A	GB 2143068 A (RUBBERMAID) e.g. see Figures.	1 & 2 at least
X	WO 93/14484 A1 (GLACO-BRICKS) e.g. Figure 2; page 3 line 25 etc.	
A	US 4999937 (BECHTOLD) e.g. see Claim 1 and Figures.	1 & 2 at least
A	US 4796369 (RUBBERMAID) e.g. see Figures & Abstract.	
X	US 4624210 (GLASS) e.g. see Abstract; Claim 1; Column 4 lines 43 etc.	

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.